Unit 5: The Constitution

Study Guide

*Vocab Words*

Electoral college – group that indirectly elects the president

Bicameral – legislature consisting of two houses

Amend – to alter, approve

Compromise – agreement between two or more sides in which each side gives up some of what it wants

Federalism – sharing of power between federal and state governments

Judicial branch – Supreme Court leads this law interpreting part of the American government

Constitution – list of fundamental laws used as a contract between the people and a government

Federalist Papers – documents written by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay in support of the Constitution

Executive branch – President heads this law-executing part of the government

Legislative branch – Congress makes up this law-making part of the American government

*People to Know*

Daniel Shays led farmers in a rebellion to protest the seizing of land to pay off war debts.

James Madison was considered the father of the Constitution because he wrote the Virginia Plan and took copious notes of the Convention.

George Washington was selected to be the President of the Constitutional Convention.

Benjamin Franklin was the oldest delegate at the Constitutional Convention.

Roger Sherman proposed the Great Compromise.

John Locke came up with the idea of Natural Rights.

Thomas Jefferson was the leader of the Anti-Federalists.

William Paterson wrote the New Jersey Plan.

*Things to Know*

The Bill of Rights is the name given for the first 10 Amendments of the Constitution.

The Northwest Ordinance was the law that helped stop the spread of slavery to the west.

Checks and balances keeps any one branch of government from gaining too much power.

By vetoing, the President can check Congress.

The Constitutional Convention took place in Philadelphia.

Rhode Island was the state that refused to send delegates to the Constitutional Convention and was the last state to ratify the new Constitution. Delaware was the first to ratify.

According to our Federal system, the State (local) government is given the power to set traffic laws.

Reasons the Articles of Confederation were considered to be weak:

\*No taxing (couldn’t raise money)

\*No control over trade

\*Couldn’t force states to follow federal laws

\*No President

The 3/5’s Compromise proposed the method to count a state’s population by counting the free citizens and a fraction of all others.

The 1st decisions made at the Constitutional Convention:

\*chose Washington as President

\*decided to throw out the Articles of Confederation

\*decided that all proceedings would be secret

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| Virginia Plan – James Madison | New Jersey Plan – William Paterson |
| * 2 House Legislature * Executive chosen by legislature | * One House Legislature * Executive chosen by Congress |
| Compromise:   * Sherman proposed 2 House Legislature * House of Reps – based on state’s population * Senate – each state has 2 members | |